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Mr. Kevin Keith, P.E. Chief Engineer Missouri Department of Transportation P.O. Box 270 Jefferson City, MO 65102

The Honorable Steve Ehlmann St. Charles County Executive Executive Office Building 100 North Third Street, Suite 318 St. Charles, MO 63301

Dear Mr. Keith and County Executive Ehlmann:

The future of the St. Charles City-County Library District is dependent on further transportation development in the county. As part of needed infrastructure development, I'd like to support the completion of Missouri Route 364 (Page Avenue extension) for which MoDOT and St. Charles County are seeking to secure a TIGER (Transportation Investment Generating Economic Recovery) Grant.

The completion of Missouri Route 364 will accomplish a number of things which will be invaluable to the entire St. Louis metro region:

- 1. Reduce congestion and greenhouse gas emissions on Interstate 70, a transcontinental highway, and Interstate 64;
- 2. Enhance mobility to and from economically distressed areas by improving transportation choices;
- 3. Provide motorists with an alternative route during inspection and maintenance of the other Missouri River bridges;
- 4. Enhance system operations when the deck on the Missouri River bridge on Interstate 70 is replaced (\$70 million, scheduled in 2012) and during the bridge replacement on Interstate 64 (planned);
- 5. Provide a freeway connector from Interstate 270 to Interstate 64;
- 6. Facilitate more efficient freight movement on Interstate 70;
- 7. Provide better access for the region's employment pool to employment opportunities and retraining facilities; and
- 8. Foster long term economic growth in underutilized properties.

The advances of the Missouri Department of Transportation during the last decade are mind boggling., given the limited resources available. The quality improvements have taken from an organization that was clearly behind the curve to one of the nation's premier transportation departments. The cooperation with St. Charles County has been superb. Thank you for your continued ongoing initiatives to provide responsive, innovative and cost effective services to the citizens of St. Charles County, the greater St. Louis region, the State of Missouri, and the Nation.

Sincerely.

Carl R. Sandstedt